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# Note on covering and approximation properties (Infinitary combinatorics in set theory and its applications)

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CITATION:

酒井, 拓史. Note on covering and approximation properties (Infinitary combinatorics in set theory and its applications). 数理解析研究所講究録 2015, 1949: 81-88: KJ00009865567.

ISSUE DATE:

2015-05

URL:

<http://hdl.handle.net/2433/223921>

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# Note on covering and approximation properties

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## Abstract

We discuss the covering and approximation properties of an ultrapower of  $V$  by a  $\kappa$ -complete ultrafilter over a measurable cardinal  $\kappa$ . Among other things, we prove that it can have both of the  $\mu$ -covering and  $\mu$ -approximation properties for every cardinal  $\mu > \kappa^+$ .

## 1 Introduction

In this paper we discuss the covering and approximation properties of inner models, which were introduced by Hamkins [3]. First recall these properties: Let  $M$  be an inner model, i.e. a transitive inner model of ZFC containing all ordinals, and let  $\mu$  be a cardinal (in  $V$ ). Note that  $|x| < \mu$  if and only if  $|x|^M < \mu$  for any set  $x \in M$ . We say that  $M$  has the  $\mu$ -covering property if for any  $x \in [\text{On}]^{<\mu}$  there is  $y \in [\text{On}]^{<\mu} \cap M$  with  $x \subseteq y$ .  $M$  is said to have the  $\mu$ -approximation property if a set  $A \subseteq \text{On}$  belongs to  $M$  whenever  $A \cap x \in M$  for all  $x \in [\text{On}]^{<\mu} \cap M$ .

These properties are often discussed in the context of forcing extensions. It was proved in [3] that if  $V$  is a set forcing extension of  $M$  by a poset  $\mathbb{P}$ , and  $\mu$  is a cardinal with  $|\mathbb{P}|^M < \mu$ , then  $M$  has the  $\mu$ -covering and  $\mu$ -approximation properties. Using this fact, Laver [4] proved that a ground model is definable in any set forcing extensions. It was also used in [3] and [4] to prove that certain large cardinals are not created by small forcing extensions. Similar use of these properties can be found in Reiz [5], Fuchs-Hamkins-Reiz [2] and Viale-Weiß [6], too.

In this paper we study the covering and approximation properties of an ultrapower of  $V$  by a  $\kappa$ -complete ultrafilter over a measurable cardinal  $\kappa$ . Throughout this paper let  $\kappa$ ,  $U$ ,  $M$  and  $j$  be as follows:

- $\kappa$  is a measurable cardinal.
- $U$  is a non-principal  $\kappa$ -complete ultrafilter over  $\kappa$ .
- $M$  is the transitive collapse of  ${}^\kappa V/U$ .
- $j : V \rightarrow M$  is the ultrapower map.

Moreover, for each  $f \in {}^\kappa V$ , let  $(f)_U \in {}^\kappa V/U$  be the equivalence class represented by  $f$ , and let  $[f]_U \in M$  be the target of  $(f)_U$  by the transitive collapse of  ${}^\kappa V/U$ .

Here we summarize our results in this paper. First we present those on the covering property. Note that  $M$  has the  $\mu$ -covering property for every cardinal  $\mu \leq \kappa^+$  because  ${}^\kappa M \subseteq M$ . We will obtain the following:

- Assume GCH. Then  $M$  has the  $\mu$ -covering property for every cardinal  $\mu$ . (Corollary 2.2)
- Assume that  $\nu$  is a cardinal with  $\nu^{<\kappa} = \nu$  and  $\nu^\kappa > \nu^+$ . Then  $M$  does not have the  $\nu^{++}$ -covering property. (Corollary 2.3)

Next we present our results on the approximation property. Note that if  $M$  has the  $\mu$ -approximation property, then  $M$  has the  $\mu'$ -approximation property for every  $\mu' \geq \mu$ . Note also that  $M$  does not have the  $\kappa^+$ -approximation property because  $[U]^\kappa \subseteq M$ , but  $U \notin M$ . We will obtain the following:

- Assume that  $\mu$  is a strongly compact cardinal  $> \kappa$ . Then  $M$  has the  $\mu$ -approximation property. (Corollary 3.3)
- It is consistent (with GCH) that  $M$  has the  $\kappa^{++}$ -approximation property. (Corollary 3.3)
- Suppose that  $\nu$  is a cardinal  $> \kappa$  and that  $\square_\nu$  holds. Then  $M$  does not have the  $\nu^+$ -approximation property. (Corollary 3.8)

Among other things, note that  $M$  can have both of the  $\mu$ -covering and  $\mu$ -approximation properties for all cardinals  $\mu > \kappa^+$ .

At the end of the introduction we give our notation which may not be standard: For a set  $A$  of ordinals,  $\text{o.t.}(A)$  denotes the order-type of  $A$ , and  $\text{Lim}(A)$  denotes the set of all limit points of  $A$ , i.e. the set of all  $\alpha \in A$  such that  $A \cap \alpha$  is unbounded in  $\alpha$ . For a regular cardinal  $\mu > \kappa$  let  $E_{<\kappa}^\mu$ ,  $E_\kappa^\mu$  and  $E_{>\kappa}^\mu$  denote the set of all  $\alpha < \mu$  with  $\text{cf}(\alpha) < \kappa$ ,  $\text{cf}(\alpha) = \kappa$  and  $\text{cf}(\alpha) > \kappa$ , respectively. For an elementary embedding  $k$  between transitive models of ZFC,  $\text{crit}(k)$  denotes the critical point of  $k$ .

## Acknowledgements

This work originates from a private communication between Daisuke Ikegami and the author. We would like to show our gratitude to Daisuke Ikegami. We would also like to thank Toshimichi Usuba for his valuable comments on this work.

## 2 Covering property

In this section we study the covering property of  $M$ . We give a characterization of that  $M$  has the  $\mu$ -covering property for a regular  $\mu$ :

**Proposition 2.1.** *The following are equivalent for any regular cardinal  $\mu$ :*

- (i)  $M$  has the  $\mu$ -covering property.
- (ii) There is no ordinal  $\nu$  with  $\nu^+ < \mu \leq j(\nu)$ .

*Proof.* Fix a regular cardinal  $\mu$ .

First we show that (i) implies (ii). We prove the contraposition. Suppose that there is an ordinal  $\nu$  with  $\nu^+ < \mu \leq j(\nu)$ . Because  $|j[\nu^+]| < \mu$ , it suffices to show that if  $j[\nu^+] \subseteq y \in M$ , then  $|y| \geq \mu$ .

Suppose that  $j[\nu^+] \subseteq y \in M$ . We may assume that  $y \subseteq j(\nu^+)$ . First note that  $j[\nu^+]$  is unbounded in  $j(\nu^+)$ . So  $y$  is unbounded in  $j(\nu^+)$ , too. Then  $|y| = j(\nu^+) \geq \mu$  in  $M$  because  $j(\nu^+)$  is regular in  $M$ . Then  $|y| \geq \mu$  also in  $V$ .

Next we prove the converse. Before starting, note that if  $x$  is a set of ordinals with  $j(|x|) < \mu$ , then there is  $y \in [\text{On}]^{<\mu} \cap M$  with  $x \subseteq y$ : For each  $\alpha \in x$  take  $f_\alpha : \kappa \rightarrow \text{On}$  with  $[f_\alpha]_U = \alpha$ . Let  $g$  be the function on  $\kappa$  defined by  $g(\xi) = \{f_\alpha(\xi) \mid \alpha \in x\}$ , and let  $y := [g]_U$ . Then  $x \subseteq y$  clearly. Moreover  $|g(\xi)| \leq |x|$  for all  $\xi \in \kappa$ , and so  $|y| \leq j(|x|) < \mu$  in  $M$ . Then  $|y| < \mu$  also in  $V$ .

We start to prove that (ii) implies (i). Assume (ii). To prove (i), take an arbitrary  $x \in [\text{On}]^{<\mu}$ . We must find  $y \in [\text{On}]^{<\mu} \cap M$  with  $x \subseteq y$ .

First suppose that  $\text{cf}(|x|) > \kappa$ . Then  $j(|x|) = \sup_{\nu < |x|} j(\nu)$ . But  $j(\nu) < \mu$  for all  $\nu < |x|$  by (ii) and the fact that  $\nu^+ \leq |x| < \mu$ . Then  $j(|x|) < \mu$  by the regularity of  $\mu$ . So there is  $y \in [\text{On}]^{<\mu} \cap M$  with  $x \subseteq y$  by the remark above.

Next suppose that  $\text{cf}(|x|) \leq \kappa$ . Take a partition  $\langle x_\eta \mid \eta < \text{cf}(|x|) \rangle$  of  $x$  such that  $|x_\eta| < |x|$  for all  $\eta$ . For each  $\eta$ ,  $j(|x_\eta|) < \mu$  by (ii), and so we can take  $y_\eta \in [\text{On}]^{<\mu} \cap M$  with  $x_\eta \subseteq y_\eta$ . Note that  $\langle y_\eta \mid \eta < \text{cf}(|x|) \rangle \in M$  because  ${}^\kappa M \subseteq M$ . Then it is easy to check that  $y := \bigcup_{\eta < \text{cf}(|x|)} y_\eta$  is as desired.  $\square$

From Proposition 2.1 we obtain the following corollaries:

**Corollary 2.2.** *Assume GCH. Then  $M$  has the  $\mu$ -covering property for every cardinal  $\mu$ .*

*Proof.*  $j(\nu) = \nu$  for each  $\nu < \kappa$ , and  $j(\nu) < (\nu^\kappa)^+ \leq \nu^{++}$  for each  $\nu \geq \kappa$ . So (ii) of Proposition 2.1 holds for every regular cardinal  $\mu$ . Hence  $M$  has the  $\mu$ -covering property for every regular cardinal  $\mu$  by Proposition 2.1.

Note that this also implies the  $\mu$ -covering property of  $M$  for every singular cardinal  $\mu$ : Suppose that  $\mu$  is a singular cardinal and that  $x \in [\text{On}]^{<\mu}$ . Then we can take a regular  $\mu' < \mu$  with  $|x| < \mu'$ . By the  $\mu'$ -covering property of  $M$  there is  $y \in [\text{On}]^{<\mu'} \cap M$  with  $x \subseteq y$ . Then  $y \in [\text{On}]^{<\mu} \cap M$ , and  $x \subseteq y$ .  $\square$

**Corollary 2.3.** *Assume that  $\nu$  is a cardinal with  $\nu^{<\kappa} = \nu$  and  $\nu^\kappa > \nu^+$ . Then  $M$  does not have the  $\nu^{++}$ -covering property.*

*Proof.* By Proposition 2.1 it suffices to show that  $\nu^{++} \leq j(\nu)$ . First take an injection  $\pi : {}^{<\kappa}\nu \rightarrow \nu$ . For each  $b \in {}^\kappa\nu$ , define  $f_b : \kappa \rightarrow \nu$  by  $f_b(\xi) = \pi(b \restriction \xi)$ . Then the set  $\{\xi < \kappa \mid f_b(\xi) = f_{b'}(\xi)\}$  is bounded in  $\kappa$  for any distinct  $b, b' \in {}^\kappa\nu$ , and so the map  $b \mapsto [f_b]_U$  is an injection from  ${}^\kappa\nu$  to  $j(\nu)$ . Hence  $\nu^{++} \leq \nu^\kappa \leq j(\nu)$ .  $\square$

### 3 Approximation property

In this section we study the approximation property of  $M$ . Recall that  $M$  does not have the  $\kappa^+$ -approximation property. Here we discuss the  $\mu$ -approximation property for  $\mu > \kappa^+$ . In Subsection 3.1 we give a characterization of the  $\mu$ -approximation property of  $M$  for a regular  $\mu$ . In Subsection 3.2 we prove that  $M$  has the  $\mu$ -approximation property if  $\mu$  is a generic strongly compact cardinal of some kind. In Subsection 3.3 we show that  $M$  does not have the  $\mu$ -approximation property under a square-like principle at  $\mu$ .

### 3.1 Characterization of the approximation property of $M$

Here we give a characterization of the  $\mu$ -approximation property of  $M$  for a regular  $\mu > \kappa$ .

First we prepare notation. Let  $X$  be a  $\subseteq$ -directed set. A sequence  $\langle f_x \mid x \in X \rangle$  is called a  $U$ -coherent sequence on  $X$  if

- (i)  $f_x : \kappa \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(x)$  (so  $[f_x]_U \subseteq j(x)$ ) for each  $x \in X$ ,
- (ii)  $\{\xi < \kappa \mid f_y(\xi) \cap x = f_x(\xi)\} \in U$  (i.e.  $[f_y]_U \cap j(x) = [f_x]_U$ ) for each  $x, y \in X$  with  $x \subseteq y$ .

Moreover a  $U$ -coherent sequence  $\langle f_x \mid x \in X \rangle$  is said to be  $U$ -uniformizable if there is a function  $f : \kappa \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(\bigcup X)$  (so  $[f]_U \subseteq j(\bigcup X)$ ) such that  $\{\xi < \kappa \mid f(\xi) \cap x = f_x(\xi)\} \in U$  (i.e.  $[f]_U \cap j(x) = [f_x]_U$ ) for all  $x \in X$ .

Here we prove the following.

**Lemma 3.1.** *Let  $\mu$  be a regular cardinal  $> \kappa$ . Then (i) below implies (ii) below:*

- (i)  $M$  has the  $\mu$ -approximation property.
- (ii) For any  $\lambda \geq \mu$  every  $U$ -coherent sequence on  $[\lambda]^{<\mu}$  is  $U$ -uniformizable.

The converse is also true if  $j(\mu) = \mu$ .

*Proof.* Before starting the proof, note that if  $y \in [j(\lambda)]^{<\mu} \cap M$  for some  $\lambda \geq \mu$ , then there is  $x \in [\lambda]^{<\mu}$  with  $y \subseteq j(x)$ : Take  $g : \kappa \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(\lambda)$  with  $[g]_U = y$ . We may assume that  $|g(\xi)| < \mu$  for all  $\xi < \kappa$  because  $|y| < \mu \leq j(\mu)$  in  $M$ . Then it is easy to see that  $x := \bigcup_{\xi < \kappa} g(\xi)$  is as desired.

First we prove that (i) implies (ii). Assume (i). To show (ii) let  $\vec{f} = \langle f_x \mid x \in [\lambda]^{<\mu} \rangle$  be a  $U$ -coherent sequence for some  $\lambda \geq \mu$ . Let  $A := \bigcup \{[f_x]_U \mid x \in [\lambda]^{<\mu}\}$ . Note that  $A \subseteq j(\lambda)$  and that  $A \cap j(x) = [f_x]_U \in M$  for all  $x \in [\lambda]^{<\mu}$  by the coherency of  $\vec{f}$ . Then  $A \cap y \in M$  for all  $y \in [\text{On}]^{<\mu} \cap M$  by the remark at the beginning. So  $A \in M$  by (i). Take  $f : \kappa \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(\lambda)$  with  $A = [f]_U$ . Then  $[f]_U \cap j(x) = A \cap j(x) = [f_x]_U$  for all  $x \in [\lambda]^{<\mu}$ , that is,  $f$   $U$ -uniformizes  $\vec{f}$ .

Next we prove the converse assuming that  $j(\mu) = \mu$ . Assume (ii). To show (i) suppose that  $A$  is a set of ordinals and that  $A \cap y \in M$  for all  $y \in [\text{On}]^{<\mu} \cap M$ . We must show that  $A \in M$ . Take  $\lambda \geq \mu$  with  $A \subseteq j(\lambda)$ . Here note that if  $x \in [\lambda]^{<\mu}$ , then  $j(x) \in M$ , and  $|j(x)| < j(\mu) = \mu$ . Hence  $A \cap j(x) \in M$  for all  $x \in [\lambda]^{<\mu}$ . For each  $x \in [\lambda]^{<\mu}$  take  $f_x : \kappa \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(x)$  with  $[f_x]_U = A \cap j(x)$ . Then it is easy to see that  $\vec{f} = \langle f_x \mid x \in [\lambda]^{<\mu} \rangle$  is  $U$ -coherent. By (ii) take  $f : \kappa \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(\lambda)$  which  $U$ -uniformizes  $\vec{f}$ . Then  $[f]_U \cap j(x) = [f_x]_U = A \cap j(x)$  for all  $x \in [\lambda]^{<\mu}$ . Moreover  $\bigcup \{j(x) \mid x \in [\lambda]^{<\mu}\} = j(\lambda) \supseteq A$  by the remark at the beginning. So  $A = [f]_U \in M$ .  $\square$

### 3.2 Approximation property for generic strongly compact cardinals

Here we show that if  $\mu$  is a generic strongly compact cardinal in the following sense, then  $M$  has the  $\mu$ -approximation property: We say that  $\mu$  is  $\leq \kappa$ -closed generic strongly compact if it satisfies the following:

- (i)  $\mu$  is a regular cardinal  $> \kappa^+$ .
- (ii) For any  $\lambda \geq \mu$  there is a  $\leq \kappa$ -closed forcing extension of  $V$  in which we have a  $(\mu, \lambda)$ -strongly compact embedding  $k : V \rightarrow N$ . Here  $k : V \rightarrow N$  is called a  $(\mu, \lambda)$ -strongly compact embedding if
  - $N$  is a transitive model of ZFC.
  - $k$  is an elementary embedding with  $\text{crit}(k) = \mu$ .
  - $k[\lambda] \subseteq y$  for some  $y \in k([\lambda]^{<\mu})$ .

Note that if  $\mu$  is a strongly compact cardinal  $> \kappa$ , then in  $V$  there is a  $(\mu, \lambda)$ -strongly compact embedding for every  $\lambda \geq \mu$ , and so  $\mu$  is  $\leq \kappa$ -closed generic strongly compact. Note also that  $\kappa^{++}$  can be  $\leq \kappa$ -closed generic strongly compact: Suppose that there is an inner model  $V'$  such that  $(\kappa^{++})^V$  is strongly compact in  $V'$  and such that  $V$  is an extension of  $V'$  by the Lévy collapse  $\text{Col}((\kappa^+)^V, < (\kappa^{++})^V)$ . Then it follows from the standard argument that  $\kappa^{++}$  is  $\leq \kappa$ -closed generic strongly compact in  $V$ . (See Cummings [1] for example.) Note also that if GCH holds in  $V'$ , then so does in  $V$ .

As we promised above, we prove the following:

**Proposition 3.2.** *Suppose that  $\mu$  is a  $\leq \kappa$ -closed generic strongly compact cardinal. Then  $M$  has the  $\mu$ -approximation property.*

**Corollary 3.3.**

- (1) *If  $\mu$  is a strongly compact cardinal  $> \kappa$ , then  $M$  has the  $\mu$ -approximation property.*
- (2) *Suppose that there is an inner model  $V'$  such that  $(\kappa^{++})^V$  is strongly compact in  $V'$  and such that  $V$  is an extension of  $V'$  by the Lévy collapse  $\text{Col}((\kappa^+)^V, < (\kappa^{++})^V)$ . Then  $M$  has the  $\mu$ -approximation property.*

To prove Proposition 3.2, we need the following lemmata:

**Lemma 3.4.** *Suppose that  $\mu$  is a  $\leq \kappa$ -closed generic strongly compact. Then  $\alpha^\kappa < \mu$  for all  $\alpha < \mu$ , and so  $j(\mu) = \mu$ .*

*Proof.* For the contradiction assume that  $\alpha < \mu$  and  $\alpha^\kappa \geq \mu$ . In  $V$  take an injection  $\tau : \mu \rightarrow {}^\kappa\alpha$ . Let  $W$  be a  $\leq \kappa$ -closed forcing extension of  $V$  and  $k : V \rightarrow N$  be a  $(\mu, \mu)$ -strongly compact embedding in  $W$ . Then it is easy to see that  $k(\tau)(\mu) \in ({}^\kappa\alpha)^N \setminus ({}^\kappa\alpha)^V$ . So  $({}^\kappa\alpha)^N \not\subseteq ({}^\kappa\alpha)^V$ . But  $({}^\kappa\alpha)^N \subseteq ({}^\kappa\alpha)^W$  because  $N \subseteq W$ , and  $({}^\kappa\alpha)^W = ({}^\kappa\alpha)^V$  because  $W$  is a  $\leq \kappa$ -closed forcing extension of  $V$ . So  $({}^\kappa\alpha)^N \subseteq ({}^\kappa\alpha)^V$ . This is a contradiction.  $\square$

**Lemma 3.5.** *Let  $\vec{f} = \langle f_x \mid x \in [\lambda]^{<\mu} \rangle$  be a  $U$ -coherent sequence for some regular  $\mu > \kappa^+$  and some  $\lambda \geq \mu$ . If  $\vec{f}$  is  $U$ -uniformizable in some  $\leq \kappa$ -closed forcing extension of  $V$ , then so is in  $V$ .*

*Proof.* Assume that  $\mathbb{P}$  is a  $\leq \kappa$ -closed poset and that  $\vec{f}$  is  $U$ -uniformizable in  $V^\mathbb{P}$ . Let  $\dot{f}$  be a  $\mathbb{P}$ -name for a function  $U$ -uniformizing  $\vec{f}$ . Because  $\mathbb{P}$  is  $\leq \kappa$ -closed, we can take  $p \in \mathbb{P}$  and  $S \subseteq \kappa$  (in  $V$ ) such that  $p \Vdash \{ \xi < \kappa \mid \dot{f}(\xi) \in V \} = S$ .

**Claim.**  $S \in U$ .

*Proof of Claim.* Take a sufficiently large regular cardinal  $\theta$ . Because  $\kappa$  is inaccessible, we can take  $K \in [\mathcal{H}_\theta]^\kappa$  such that  $\kappa, \mu, \lambda, U, \mathbb{P}, p, \dot{f}, S \in K \prec \langle \mathcal{H}_\theta, \in \rangle$  and such that  ${}^{<\kappa}K \subseteq K$ . Let  $z := K \cap \lambda \in [\lambda]^{<\mu}$ .

By induction on  $\xi < \kappa$  we construct a descending sequence  $\langle p_\xi \mid \xi < \kappa \rangle$  in  $\mathbb{P} \cap K$ . Let  $p_0 := p$ . If  $\xi$  is a limit ordinal, then let  $p_\xi \in \mathbb{P} \cap K$  be a lower bound of  $\{p_\eta \mid \eta < \xi\}$ . We can take such  $p_\xi$  because  $\mathbb{P}$  is  $\leq \kappa$ -closed, and  ${}^{<\kappa}K \subseteq K$ . Finally suppose that  $\xi$  is a successor ordinal, say  $\xi = \eta + 1$ , and that  $p_\eta$  has been taken. If  $\eta \in S$ , then let  $p_\xi := p_\eta$ . Otherwise, because  $p_\eta \Vdash \dot{f}(\eta) \notin V$ , there are  $r_0, r_1 \leq p_\eta$  and  $\alpha < \lambda$  such that  $r_0 \Vdash \alpha \in \dot{f}(\eta)$  and  $r_1 \Vdash \alpha \notin \dot{f}(\eta)$ . By the elementarity of  $K$  we can take such  $r_0, r_1$  and  $\alpha$  in  $K$ . Let  $p_\xi := r_1$  if  $\alpha \in f_z(\eta)$ , and let  $p_\xi := r_0$  if  $\alpha \notin f_z(\eta)$ . Note that  $p_\xi \Vdash \dot{f}(\eta) \cap z \neq f_z(\eta)$ .

Now we have constructed  $\langle p_\xi \mid \xi < \kappa \rangle$ . By the  $\leq \kappa$ -closure of  $\mathbb{P}$  we can take its lower bound  $p^*$ . Then  $p^*$  forces that  $\dot{f}(\xi) \cap z \neq f_z(\xi)$  for all  $\xi \in \kappa \setminus S$ . Then  $\kappa \setminus S \notin U$  because  $\dot{f}$  is forced to  $U$ -uniformize  $\vec{f}$ . So  $S \in U$ .  $\square$ (Claim)

Because  $\mathbb{P}$  is  $\leq \kappa$ -closed, we can take  $q \leq p$  and a sequence  $\langle B_\xi \mid \xi \in S \rangle$  in  $\mathcal{P}(\lambda)$  such that  $q \Vdash \dot{f}(\xi) = B_\xi$  for all  $\xi \in S$ . Let  $f : \kappa \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(\lambda)$  be such that  $f(\xi) = B_\xi$  for all  $\xi \in S$ . From the choice of  $\dot{f}$  and the claim above, it follows that  $f$   $U$ -uniformizes  $\vec{f}$ .  $\square$

Now we prove Proposition 3.2:

*Proof of Proposition 3.2.* By Lemmata 3.1 and 3.4 it suffices to show that for any  $\lambda \geq \mu$  every  $U$ -coherent sequence on  $[\lambda]^{<\mu}$  is  $U$ -uniformizable. Suppose that  $\lambda \geq \mu$  and that  $\vec{f} = \langle f_x \mid x \in [\lambda]^{<\mu} \rangle$  is a  $U$ -coherent sequence. Let  $W$  be a  $\leq \kappa$ -closed forcing extension of  $V$  in which we have a  $(\mu, \lambda)$ -strongly compact embedding  $k : V \rightarrow N$ . By Lemma 3.5 it suffices to show that  $\vec{f}$  is  $U$ -uniformizable in  $W$ . We work in  $W$ .

Let  $k(\vec{f}) = \langle g_y \mid y \in k([\lambda]^{<\mu}) \rangle$ , and take  $y^* \in k([\lambda]^{<\mu})$  such that  $k[\lambda] \subseteq y^*$ . Note that  $g_y : \kappa \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(y)$  for each  $y$ . Now let  $f : \kappa \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(\lambda)$  be the pull-back of  $g_{y^*}$  by  $k$ , that is,

$$f(\xi) = k^{-1}[g_{y^*}(\xi) \cap k[\lambda]]$$

for each  $\xi < \kappa$ . We claim that  $f$   $U$ -uniformizes  $\vec{f}$ . Take an arbitrary  $x \in [\lambda]^{<\mu}$ . We must show that  $\{\xi < \kappa \mid f(\xi) \cap x = f_x(\xi)\} \in U$ . First note that  $k[z] = k(z)$  for all  $z \subseteq x$  because  $|x| < \mu = \text{crit}(k)$ . Then for each  $\xi < \kappa$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} f(\xi) \cap x = f_x(\xi) &\Leftrightarrow g_{y^*}(\xi) \cap k[x] = k[f_x(\xi)] \Leftrightarrow g_{y^*}(\xi) \cap k(x) = k(f_x(\xi)) \\ &\Leftrightarrow g_{y^*}(\xi) \cap k(x) = g_{k(x)}(\xi). \end{aligned}$$

Then

$$\{\xi < \kappa \mid f(\xi) \cap x = f_x(\xi)\} = \{\xi < \kappa \mid g_{y^*}(\xi) \cap k(x) = g_{k(x)}(\xi)\} \in k(U) = U,$$

where the middle  $\in$ -relation is by the  $k(U)$ -coherency of  $k(\vec{f}) = \langle g_y \mid y \in k([\lambda]^{<\mu}) \rangle$ .  $\square$

### 3.3 Failure of $\mu$ -approximation property under $\Phi(\mu)$

Here we prove that  $M$  does not have the  $\mu$ -approximation property under the following square-like principle  $\Phi(\mu)$ : For a regular cardinal  $\mu > \kappa^+$  let

$\Phi(\mu) \equiv$  there are  $E \subseteq \text{Lim}(\mu)$  and  $\langle c_\alpha \mid \alpha \in E \rangle$  such that

- (i)  $E_{>\kappa}^\mu \subseteq E$ , and  $E_\kappa^\mu \setminus E$  is stationary in  $\mu$ ,
- (ii)  $c_\alpha$  is a club subset of  $\alpha$  for each  $\alpha \in E$ ,
- (iii) if  $\alpha \in E$ , and  $\beta \in \text{Lim}(c_\alpha)$ , then  $\beta \in E$ , and  $c_\alpha \cap \beta = c_\beta$ .

First we observe that  $\Phi(\nu^+)$  follows from Jensen's  $\square_\nu$ , which asserts the existence of a sequence  $\langle c_\alpha \mid \alpha \in \text{Lim}(\nu^+) \rangle$  such that

- (i) each  $c_\alpha$  is a club subset of  $\alpha$  with  $\text{o.t.}(c_\alpha) \leq \nu$ ,
- (ii)  $c_\alpha \cap \beta = c_\beta$  if  $\beta \in \text{Lim}(c_\alpha)$ .

**Lemma 3.6.** *Let  $\nu$  be a cardinal  $> \kappa$ , and assume  $\square_\nu$ . Then  $\Phi(\nu^+)$  holds.*

*Proof.* Let  $\langle d_\alpha \mid \alpha \in \text{Lim}(\nu^+) \rangle$  be a sequence witnessing  $\square_\nu$ . Then, because  $\text{o.t.}(d_\alpha) \leq \nu$  for all  $\alpha \in E_\kappa^{\nu^+}$ , there is  $\rho \leq \nu$  such that  $D := \{\alpha \in E_\kappa^{\nu^+} \mid \text{o.t.}(d_\alpha) = \rho\}$  is stationary in  $\nu^+$ . Let  $E := \text{Lim}(\nu^+) \setminus D$ . For each  $\alpha \in E$  define  $c_\alpha$  as follows: If  $\text{o.t.}(d_\alpha) < \rho$ , then let  $c_\alpha := d_\alpha$ . Otherwise,  $\text{o.t.}(d_\alpha) > \rho$ . Let  $\gamma$  be the  $\rho$ -th element of  $d_\alpha$ , and let  $c_\alpha := d_\alpha \setminus \gamma$ .

Now it is easy to check that  $E$  and  $\langle c_\alpha \mid \alpha \in E \rangle$  witness  $\Phi(\nu^+)$ .  $\square$

As we promised above, we prove the following:

**Proposition 3.7.** *Let  $\mu$  be a regular cardinal  $> \kappa^+$ , and assume  $\Phi(\mu)$ . Then  $M$  does not have the  $\mu$ -approximation property.*

**Corollary 3.8.** *Let  $\nu$  be a cardinal  $> \kappa$ , and assume  $\square_\nu$ . Then  $M$  does not have the  $\nu^+$ -approximation property.*

*Proof of Proposition 3.7.* Let  $E$  and  $\langle c_\alpha \mid \alpha \in E \rangle$  be a pair witnessing  $\Phi(\mu)$ . By induction on  $\alpha < \mu$  we will construct a  $U$ -coherent sequence  $\langle f_\alpha \mid \alpha < \mu \rangle$  which is not  $U$ -uniformizable. The induction hypotheses are as follows:

- (I)  $[f_\alpha]_U \cap j(\beta) = [f_\beta]_U$  for each  $\beta < \alpha$ .
- (II) If  $\alpha \in E$ , and  $\beta \in \text{Lim}(c_\alpha)$ , then  $f_\alpha(\xi) \cap \beta = f_\beta(\xi)$  for all  $\xi < \kappa$ .

Suppose that  $\alpha < \mu$  and that  $f_\beta : \kappa \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(\beta)$  has been taken for every  $\beta < \alpha$ .

**Case 1:**  $\alpha$  is a successor ordinal.

Let  $f_\alpha : \kappa \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(\alpha)$  be such that  $[f_\alpha]_U = [f_{\alpha-1}]_U \cup \{j(\alpha-1)\}$ . Clearly  $f_\alpha$  satisfies the induction hypotheses.

**Case 2:**  $\alpha \in \text{Lim}(\mu) \setminus E$ .



In this case note that  $\text{cf}(\alpha) \leq \kappa$  by (i) of  $\Phi(\mu)$ . Let  $B := \bigcup_{\beta < \alpha} [f_\beta]_U \subseteq j(\alpha)$ . Then  $B \in M$  because  $\text{cf}(\alpha) \leq \kappa$ , and  ${}^\kappa M \subseteq M$ . Let  $f_\alpha : \kappa \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(\alpha)$  be such that  $[f_\alpha]_U = B$ . Then  $f_\alpha$  clearly satisfies the induction hypotheses. Here note that if  $\text{cf}(\alpha) = \kappa$ , i.e.  $\alpha \in E_\kappa^\mu \setminus E$ , then  $[f_\alpha]_U$  is bounded in  $j(\alpha)$  because  $B \subseteq \sup_{\beta < \alpha} j(\beta) < j(\alpha)$ .

**Case 3:**  $\alpha \in E$ .

In this case note that if  $\beta, \gamma \in \text{Lim}(c_\alpha)$ , and  $\beta < \gamma$ , then  $\gamma \in E$  and  $\beta \in \text{Lim}(c_\gamma)$  by (iii) of  $\Phi(\mu)$ . So for such  $\beta, \gamma$  we have that  $f_\gamma(\xi) \cap \beta = f_\beta(\xi)$  for all  $\xi < \kappa$  by (II) for  $f_\gamma$ .

First suppose that  $\text{Lim}(c_\alpha)$  is unbounded in  $\alpha$ . Define  $f_\alpha$  by  $f_\alpha(\xi) = \bigcup_{\gamma \in \text{Lim}(c_\alpha)} f_\gamma(\xi)$  for all  $\xi < \kappa$ . Then  $f_\alpha$  satisfies (II) by the remark above. Moreover it is easy to see that  $f_\alpha$  also satisfies (I).

Next suppose that  $\text{Lim}(c_\alpha)$  is bounded in  $\alpha$ . Let  $\gamma := \max(\text{Lim}(c_\alpha))$ . Note that  $\text{cf}(\alpha) = \omega$  in this case. So we can take  $f_\alpha$  satisfying (I) as in Case 2. Moreover we can take such  $f_\alpha$  with the property that  $f_\alpha(\xi) \cap \gamma = f_\gamma(\xi)$  for all  $\xi < \kappa$ . Then  $f_\alpha$  also satisfies (II) by the remark above.

Now we have constructed a  $U$ -coherent  $\vec{f} = \langle f_\alpha \mid \alpha < \mu \rangle$ . By Lemma 3.1 it suffices to show that  $\vec{f}$  is not  $U$ -uniformizable.

For the contradiction assume that  $\vec{f}$  is  $U$ -uniformized by  $f : \kappa \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(\mu)$ . Note that  $[f]_U \cap j(\alpha) = [f_\alpha]_U$  for all  $\alpha < \mu$ . Then  $j[\mu] \subseteq [f]_U$  by the choice of  $f_\alpha$ 's for successor  $\alpha$ 's. Here note that  $j[\mu]$  is unbounded in  $j(\mu)$  because  $\mu$  is a regular cardinal  $> \kappa$ . So  $[f]_U$  is unbounded in  $j(\mu)$ , that is,  $S := \{\xi < \kappa \mid f(\xi) \text{ is unbounded in } \mu\} \in U$ . Then we can take  $\alpha^* \in E_\kappa^\mu \setminus E$  such that  $f(\xi) \cap \alpha^*$  is unbounded in  $\alpha^*$  for all  $\xi \in S$  because  $\mu$  is a regular cardinal  $> \kappa$ , and  $E_\kappa^\mu \setminus E$  is stationary in  $\mu$ . Then  $[f]_U \cap j(\alpha^*)$  is unbounded in  $j(\alpha^*)$ . But  $[f]_U \cap j(\alpha^*) = [f_{\alpha^*}]_U$ , and  $[f_{\alpha^*}]_U$  is bounded in  $j(\alpha^*)$  by the choice of  $f_{\alpha^*}$  in Case 2. This is a contradiction.  $\square$

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